

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190388
ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190388

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN, DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PBOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: FY '79 SSA

1. LEAVING ASIDE MILITARY PACKAGE, WE SUBMITTED FOR BUREAU REVIEW THREE SSA OPTIONS, AT DOLS 81.5 MILLION, DOLS 125 MILLION AND DOLS 165 MILLION, THE LATTER INCLUDING DOLS 40 MILLION FOR MAQARIN. JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, ROY TOOK THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD STRAIGHTLINE THE FOUR CONFRONTATION STATES. CONSEQUENTLY, THE HIGH OPTION IN PARTICULAR TENDS TO SKEW THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONALITY.

2. THE BUREAU MADE THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE, BUT AID PROPOSALS MISSED DEADLINE AND CAME THROUGH ONLY YESTERDAY, AUGUST 10.

3. WE HAD EXTREMELY USEFUL DISCUSSION YESTERDAY WITH
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WHEELER, WITH SOBER, VELIOTES, MYSELF AND OTHER DIRECTORS PRESENT. WHEELER IS NOW RPT NOW STRONGLY SUPPORTING MAJOR FUNDING FOR POTASH AND MAQARIN, BELIEVING THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN MOMENTUM IN THESE PROJECTS WHICH IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO INTERRUPT. HE HAS INTERESTING IDEA OF FUNDING MAQARIN UNDER A SEPARATE LINE ITEM, NOT RPT NOT AS A REGIONAL PROJECT, BUT, RATHER, AS A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT.

I PERSONALLY FIND THIS INTRIGUING SINCE STATE WITNESSES CAN PLANT THE POLITICAL-REGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE IN CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, WHILE AID REPS PUSH THE MATTER AS AN ECONOMIC MATTER OF MAJOR CONSEQUENCE.

4. WHEELER, HOWEVER, IS STILL STRONGLY AGAINST BUDGET SUPPORT AND ARGUES THAT, ASIDE FROM SUBSTANTIAL AND GROWING RESERVES, JORDAN HAS LEARNED OVER THE YEARS TO USE STEADILY MORE SOPHISTICATED FINANCING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING THE FLOATING OF BONDS. HE ARGUES THAT WE CAN PROBABLY GET A VERY IMPRESSIVE PACKAGE, DEVOID OF BUDGET SUPPORT, CONSISTING OF DOLS 31.5 MILLION IN BASIC PROGRAMS, INCLUDING AMMAN WATER, DOLS 50 MILLION FOR POTASH, AND DOLS 45 MILLION FOR MAQARIN, TOTALING 126.5 MILLION.

5. MEETING ENDED ON TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT NOTHING IS SET IN CONCRETE, THAT THESE LATEST CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE WEIGHED WITH ROY ON HIS RETURN. AT SID'S SUGGESTION, THIS OFFICE AND AID WILL GO BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD TO SEE WHETHER WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A NEW OPTION OR TWO WHICH DOES NOT SKEW THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONALITY SO MUCH, SUCH AS BY MAKING THE DOLS 50 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO POTASH A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM.

6. WE WILL DO OUR BEST. CHRISTOPHER

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